

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:RCASTRODALE:SM X23040
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TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 065351

EXDIS CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BC, RH, SF, TZ

SUBJECT: TANZANIAN DEMARCHE ON RHODESIA: WESTERN AID
SOUGHT TO COMPENSATE BOTSWANA FOR CLOSING RAIL LINK WITH
RHODESIA

SUMMARY: FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS PROPOSE THAT BOTSWANA CUT
ITS RAIL LINK WITH RHODESIA AND ASK THAT WESTERN NATIONS
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HELP BOTSWANA DEFRAY COSTS OF ECONOMIC DISLOCATION.

1. TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR BOMANI CALLED ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY SCHAUFEELE MARCH 22 TO REQUEST THAT SCHAUFEELE PASS
ON TANGOV VIEWS ON SEVERAL SUBJECTS TO SECRETARY VANCE.
BOMANI BEGAN BY NOTING THAT PRESIDENT NYERERE APPRECI-
ATED USG EFFORTS IN TALKING WITH THE KENYANS ON THE BREAK-

UP OF EAST AFRICAN AIRLINES. BOMANI CLAIMED THAT THE TANGOV HAD BEEN WORRIED ABOUT GOK MOVEMENTS ON THE BORDER AS WELL AS FEARING HARRASSMENT OF TANZANIANS WHO WERE DUE TO LEAVE KENYA IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE AIRLINE. NYERERE WAS THANKFUL FOR OUR EFFORT HELPING CALM THE SITUATION AND ALLOW THE TANZANIANS TO DEPART KENYA SAFELY. SCHAUFLE ANSWERED THAT WE WERE ALWAYS GLAD TO BE HELPFUL IN SUCH SITUATIONS.

2. BOMANI MENTIONED THAT THE TANGOV WAS VERY PLEASED BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S AFRICAN POLICY, ADDING THAT IT WAS IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S UN SPEECH. PRESIDENT NYERERE ALSO WANTED TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT. THIS WOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT IN AFRICA BY DEMONSTRATING THE US COMMITMENT ON RHODESIA. THE TANGOV NOW FELT THAT IT WAS TIME TO FOLLOW UP REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT WITH OTHER MEASURES.

3. BOMANI SAID THAT THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS HAD DECIDED AT THEIR RECENT BEIRA MEETING TO TIGHTEN ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON RHODESIA BY ENCOURAGING BOTSWANA TO CLOSE DOWN THE BOTSWANA-RHODESIA RAILWAY CONNECTION. BOTSWANA WAS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH THIS DECISION BUT WOULD FACE SEVERE ECONOMIC DISLOCATIONS. IN VIEW OF THE SUBSTANTIAL COSTS EXPECTED FROM SUCH A MOVE, THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS WANTED TO ASK THE USG AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS IF THEY WERE WILLING TO HELP BEAR THESE EXPENSES FOR BOTSWANA. CLOSING THE RAIL LINE WOULD LEAVE ONLY ONE LINK FROM RHODESIA TO THE SEA--THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA. THIS LINE WOULD GROW
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CONGESTED QUICKLY, AND SANCTIONS WOULD BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE. SMITH WOULD FACE MORE ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS AND HIS REGIME MIGHT BE BROUGHT DOWN PEACEFULLY. THESE WESTERN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEMS--IN LIEU OF MILITARY SUPPORT WHICH WAS ALREADY BEING PROVIDED BY THE SOVIETS--SEEMED TO BE A GOOD ALTERNATIVE TO A MILITARY SOLUTION FOR THE AREA.

4. BOMANI HAD NO SPECIFIC COST FIGURES IN MIND AT THIS TIME. SCHAUFLE NOTED THAT THE USG HAD ONCE DONE AN ESTIMATE THAT HAD SHOWN DOLS. 100 MILLION WOULD BE NECESSARY JUST TO KEEP THE BOTSWANA RAIL LINE OPERATING IN SUCH A CASE. HE EXPECTED THERE WOULD BE OTHER COSTS AS WELL. CONGRESS WOULD HAVE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS IN ANY SUCH SCHEME, AND THIS MIGHT NOT BE AS EASY A TASK AS REPEALING THE BYRD AMENDMENT HAD SEEMED. SCHAUFLE ADDED THAT PERHAPS

THE USG MIGHT HELP IN SOME OTHER FIELD OF TRANSPORTATION, SUCH AS SPEEDING UP THE PAVING OF THE BOT-ZAM ROAD. WE

HAD ALREADY BUILT THE ROAD AND WERE CONSIDERING PAVING IT, BUT WE WOULD NEED TO DO STUDIES ON HOW MUCH ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC IT WOULD HAVE TO HANDLE SHOULD BOTSWANA CUT THE RAIL LINK. BOMANI SUGGESTED THAT THIS MIGHT LOWER THE PROPOSED AID FIGURE TO DOLS. 50-80 MILLION, BUT SCHAUFEELE SAID THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO LOOK FURTHER INTO THE MATTER BEFORE WE COULD TALK ABOUT ANY SPECIFIC FIGURES.

5. BOMANI WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER BOTSWANA WOULD INITIATE A BREAK IN TRADE WITH RHODESIA ONCE THE RAIL LINK WERE SEVERED. HE THOUGHT THAT RHODESIA MIGHT RETALIATE AND BREAK TRADE RELATIONS FIRST. BOMANI DID NOT BELIEVE THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD RETALIATE AGAINST BOTSWANA, HOWEVER. HE NOTED THAT THE SAG HAD NOT TAKEN SUCH STEPS AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE FOLLOWING THE LATTER'S SANCTIONS MOVE AGAINST RHODESIA.

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6. BOMANI ASKED ABOUT USING THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR COMPENSATING BOTSWANA. SCHAUFEELE ANSWERED THAT THIS FUND ALSO HAD TO BE PASSED BY CONGRESS AND THAT IN ANY CASE IT WAS TO BE USED ONLY FOR ZIMBABWE.

7. SCHAUFEELE PROMISED TO PASS ON THE TANGOV POSITION TO SECRETARY VANCE AND REPORT BACK TO BOMANI. BOMANI SAID THE TANZANIANS WOULD ALSO BE PROPOSING SUCH A PLAN TO THE CANADIANS AND TO THE UK.

8. IN A SEPARATE MEETING ON MARCH 22 AMBASSADOR SCHAUFEELE MET BOTSWANAN AMB. MOOKODI AND PERM. SEC GAOLATHE FROM BOTSWANA'S MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. THEY REITERATED KHAMA'S REQUEST FOR STANDBY RAILWAY EQUIPMENT (GABORONE 696). GAOLATHE EXPLAINED A RECENT CANADIAN STUDY SUGGESTS \$16 MILLION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE ROLLING STOCK AND HIRE EXPATRIATES TO OPERATE THE RAILWAY WITHIN BOTSWANA TO MEET BOTSWANA'S MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS. AMBASSADOR SCHAUFEELE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS WE WOULD ENCOUNTER WITH RAILWAY PROJECT, BUT SAID WE WOULD STUDY THEIR REQUEST.

9. THE FOREGOING IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND YOU SHOULD NOT APPROACH THE GOB REGARDING THIS MATTER UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.

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